

What is claimed is:

1. A radiation image information reading apparatus comprising:

5           a cassette loader for loading a plurality of cassettes each storing a stimulable phosphor panel with radiation image information recorded therein;

10          a reading unit for applying stimulating light to said stimulable phosphor panel and photoelectrically reading light emitted from said stimulable phosphor panel to acquire the radiation image information recorded in the stimulable phosphor panel;

15          an erasure unit for applying erasing light to said stimulable phosphor panel to erase remaining radiation image information from the stimulable phosphor panel;

              a detector for detecting a state of a cassette;

              an abnormal cassette storage unit for storing a cassette which is detected by said detector as being in an abnormal state; and

20          a discharging mechanism for discharging the cassette detected as being in the abnormal state into said abnormal cassette storage unit.

25          2. A radiation image information reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said detector detects a loaded state of a cassette which is loaded in said cassette loader.

3. A radiation image information reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said detector detects a registered state of a cassette which is loaded in said cassette loader.

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4. A radiation image information reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said detector detects an ejected state of said stimulable phosphor panel stored in a cassette.

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5. A radiation image information reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said abnormal cassette storage unit is disposed in said cassette loader.

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6. A radiation image information reading apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said cassette loader has an inlet member for introducing a cassette into the radiation image information reading apparatus, and a wall movable from said inlet member to provide said abnormal cassette storage unit, and wherein said wall serves as said discharging mechanism, holds the cassette detected as being in the abnormal state, and moves to store the cassette into said abnormal cassette storage unit.

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25 7. A radiation image information reading apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said inlet member is disposed on an inclined bottom panel of said cassette loader, and

5        said wall is movable downwardly from said inlet member along  
said inclined bottom panel, and wherein said wall moves  
downwardly along said inclined bottom panel together with  
the cassette detected as being in the abnormal state to  
store the cassette into said abnormal cassette storage unit.

10      8. A radiation image information reading apparatus  
according to claim 1, wherein said abnormal cassette storage  
unit is disposed within the radiation image information  
reading apparatus, for storing a cassette that is detected  
as being in an abnormal state which is introduced from said  
cassette loader into the radiation image information reading  
apparatus and discharged by said discharging mechanism.

15      9. A radiation image information reading apparatus  
according to claim 1, wherein said abnormal cassette storage  
unit disposed outside of the radiation image information  
reading apparatus independently of said cassette loader, for  
storing a cassette that is detected as being in an abnormal  
20     state which is introduced from said cassette loader into the  
radiation image information reading apparatus and discharged  
by said discharging mechanism.

25      10. A radiation image information reading apparatus  
according to claim 1, further comprising:

          a normal cassette storage unit for storing a cassette,  
which is not detected as being in an abnormal state, storing

a stimulable phosphor panel from which radiation image information has been read by said reading unit and from which remaining radiation image information has been erased by said erasure unit;

5               wherein said discharging mechanism selects said abnormal cassette storage unit or said normal cassette storage unit depending on the state of said cassette, and discharges the cassette.

10              11. A radiation image information reading apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said detector detects the loaded state of the cassette based on a detected state of a reflective marker disposed in a predetermined position on the cassette.

15              12. A radiation image information reading apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said detector detects the registered state of the cassette based on identification information detected from an identification information detecting means disposed in a predetermined position on the cassette.